

## Brief Notes

He who assists the fallen to arise shall quicker find his own way to the skies.

Grudge not the toil and trouble of the road which leads at length to that divine abode.

Look not behind, look steadily before; make not the coming life the less, but more

The hidden life may yet be richly sown; 'tis better to be loved than to be known.

We should learn to bear our own misfortunes with as much equanimity as we bear the misfortunes of others.

Unfailing cheerfulness in a Christian preaches a continuous and attractive sermon. If you are not happy, see if there isn't a leak somewhere in your religion.

Thoreau says that the winter is like a bone thrown to the dog, cold, and hard and meatless. All he can hope to get from it is the marrow. But the marrow is so sweet that he is satisfied. If there are winter experiences in your spiritual life see that you find the marrow of the bone.

Thankfulness for the blessings we receive is like the lock to the granary door. Left unlocked, the rich treasures of wheat are exposed to every sort of depredation and thievery, and are soon dissipated and devoured. We do not really possess our blessings until we are deeply thankful, even for the least.

A society calling itself "The Brotherhood of Silence," exists in one of our large cities. It is timely. The world has come to be so noisy that the art of silence and meditation, indispensable method of the spiritual life is forgotten. In society it is considered much more important to talk than not to tell lies.

In New York a thirty-five million dollar underground railway is to be built. These enormous enterprises, as well as all the beauty and grandeur of the cities, is made possible by the vast populations centered there. What will the "City of God" be like, with the number, character and resources of its population, and with God's palace crowning all the grandeur. We don't believe there will be any underground business there, however.

Justice Gummere of the Supreme Court of New York says in a recent decision, that "if a railroad kills a child, its parents should be satisfied with one dollar damages, since the child is a source of expense to its parents, and of no special benefit." Once and a while somebody jumps up who almost compels us to believe the doctrine of evolution,—that man sprang from a beast.

A case almost parallel to this was furnished by Justice Robinson of the Supreme Court of Connecticut, who said in a recent decision in a case for damages, that "provided a railroad kills a man painlessly, ten dollars is enough damages for his friends. 'His friends' may be a destitute family; but however that may be, there is no further need of saying anything about the wisdom of Solomon. The State of wooden nutmegs has at last succeeded in producing a wooden judge.

A man forty-nine years old writes to a newspaper saying that life was a total failure, and that having nothing further to live for he contemplates suicide. Among other things less wise the paper asks the pertinent question, that if there is nothing worth living for, how can he make out that there is anything worth dying for? There are many, many thousands who haven't the slightest idea how rich with thrilling interest life becomes when once God has entered into it. Then there is something worth living for, and worth dying for, too.

A rich man hired a special train, and traveled at unusual speed to meet his daughter, who had been absent in a far country. It made us think of our Heavenly Father, and how fast his providences and

blessings fly to meet his children. They are coming home from a far country, and even the prodigal among them is met the way, no like the swift coming of the morning light, with welcome and joy. And how like the wings of the stars comes help in answer to our cry. Oh, how swiftly the Father runs to meet them that love and trust him.

Lieutenant Gilmore, the American officer who for several months has been a prisoner in the hands of the Filipinos, was rescued not long since by a party of our soldiers. He and his men were half dead with privation, exposure and fatigue, when suddenly the rescuing party galloped up, and then all was changed to joy and gladness. He not only earnestly desired this deliverance from captivity but joyfully accepted it at the very first opportunity, and in so doing furnished a very striking contrast to the conduct of many, who tho in a much more grievous and perilous captivity seem neither to desire rescue, nor to understand even what it means. At any rate they often reject it when it is offered, conduct which in Lieutenant Gilmore's case would have been regarded as evidence of insanity.

Temporary insanity was the successful plea offered by the defense in a recent widely published murder case. There is no little doubt of the sanity of this plea, so often used of late in murder trials, for the unbridled passion which leads to murder, while in itself one of the most frightful marks of insanity, is yet of a kind which admits moral and physical responsibility. People who would not be regarded as eligible to the lunatic asylum nevertheless commit murder upon time, upon opportunity, murder their peace of mind, murder their souls. Nevertheless they do not escape the responsibility and the punishment. Insanity does not make void moral responsibility in the ultimate analysis, because in most cases if not in all its foundations were laid in the known transgression of those laws upon which depend soundness of mind and soundness of soul.

A party of kidnappers stole a lame child, a little girl, and traveling from one city to another reaped a rich harvest by compelling the poor little cripple to beg thru the streets, and bring them the money. It is almost incredible that the human form can disguise such reptiles as these heartless miscreants; and it furnishes us with the disagreeable reflection that our own human nature is capable of such profound depths of iniquity. Let us cling closely to that grace of God which alone can rescue us from the deepest and blackest abysses of wickedness.

After many attempts upon the part of the liberals to sidetrack the McGiffert heresy trial in New York, it seems that it is to come off. This disturber of Presbyterian peace in the metropolis published a book some time ago, in which he attacked the authenticity of some of the New Testament scriptures. He belongs to the "higher criticism" fraternity, a cult distinguished for so much elevation of thought that for the most part it is lost in the clouds, entirely out of sight of ordinary mortals. Their wisdom reminds us of the wisdom of the hired servant who spent so much of his time picking flaws in his axe that he forgot to chop wood, and was dismissed by his employer. Much learning may not make a fellow mad, but it makes some people ridiculous.

Japan's Crown Prince is coming to visit us next spring, so the report goes, and of course there will be elaborate preparations upon the part of our government to receive him with all the honors and distinction which his exalted station requires. Doubtless it is right and proper to be mindful of the claims of superior and exalted personages to distinguished treatment and splendid hospitality, but would it not be still more appropriate if we honored the coming of the Divine Crown Prince more than we do. He came to a hostile and inhospitable world once, which rewarded his love with crucifixion, and it is not going too far to say that he often suffers the same heartless reception. There is one welcome, however, which he prizes above all the gorgeous pageants of the world, and that is the joyful opening to him of a lov-

ing heart. Let us always be ready for the glorious coming of our own Crown Prince.

The South African Conciliation Committee has been quietly formed in England, and embraces some well known people. It has for its object the ending of the war between England and the South African republics in such manner as will not humiliate either of the bellicose nations. It is rather a melancholy commentary upon our Christian civilization that two Christian nations, engaged in a bloody and useless war, should find it so difficult to find a common ground for peace which would be consonant with the supposed honor of the combatants. Can war be honorable between Christians?

Mr. Carnegie's recent donation of \$300,000 to Cooper Institute in New York City is a continuation of his policy to devote his great wealth to humanitarian enterprises. With an annual income of something like \$5,000,000 he is enabled to make these munificent gifts frequently without impairing the principal and if he lives long he will make a great fame in the foundation of benevolent and educational institutions, and the liberal endowment of others. The practical and economical management of Ashland College would make a little endowment go a long ways. We trust that a good one may find its way there some day not far off.

A rich and fashionable American woman who became a convert to Buddhism two years ago, and leaving her family went to a Buddhist convent in Ceylon to study the mysteries of her new religion, has become dissatisfied with it, and is coming back. She was converted by H. Dharmapala, the Buddhist delegate to the World's Congress of Religions, held in Chicago. This astute Hindoo made several converts among the fashionable set, but when it became clear that the fad was not going to become popular, his success wilted. For a considerable time he held forth in Boston, the paradise of esoteric philosophy, but we suppose that by this time he has found out that as a center of religious light the rest of the country doesn't take Boston very seriously.

Earthquakes in divers places, and rumors of wars, have long been regarded as signs of the end of the world. If that is true, there have been many ends of the world, or at least many which failed to make connection. Just now we have the big South African war, and the papers which give account of the fighting also record an earthquake just pulled off in Russia, in which a great many people were killed. It has been only a few weeks since Southern California was visited by a severe seismic disturbance. Then there are other familiar signs, the Indian famine, and the pestilence whose black shadow is now frightening many quarters of the world. But these things have been going on for thousands of years, only in the years gone by they were much worse than they are now. However we are not among those who ask: "Where is the promise of his coming."

### A'Kempis

Love all for Jesus, and Jesus for himself. Jesus Christ alone is singularly to be loved; and he alone is found good and faithful above all friends. For him, and in him, let friends as well as foes be dear unto thee; and all these are to be prayed for, that he would make them all to know and love him. Never desire to be singularly commended nor beloved, for that appertaineth only unto God, who hath none like unto himself.

### MacLaren

Let the current of your being set toward God, then your life will be filled and calmed by one master passion which unites and stills the soul.

—Southern Brazil is highly commended as a virgin field for American enterprise. Its climate is praised as most healthful and its resources are wonderfully endowed.